

MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2002  
PARAMEDIC TASK FORCE MEETING  
Westin Horton Plaza Hotel  
San Diego

| <u>MEMBERS<br/>PRESENT</u> | <u>EMSA STAFF<br/>PRESENT</u> | <u>ALTERNATES<br/>PRESENT</u> | <u>MEMBERS<br/>ABSENT</u> | <u>ALTERNATES<br/>ABSENT</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dean Anderson              | Nancy Steiner                 | Mike Metro                    | Debbie Becker             | Linda Anderson               |
| Jim Holbrook               | Connie Telford                |                               | Bill Bower                | Nancy Eubanks                |
| Sabina Imrie               | Richard Watson                |                               | Darryl Cleveland          | Nancy Justin                 |
| Tom McGinnis               |                               |                               | Carol Gunter              | Dick Mayberry                |
| Kym Mitchell               |                               |                               | Bill Koenig               | Linda Mulgrew                |
| Jim Pointer                |                               |                               | Jan Ogar                  | Ray Navarro                  |
| Kevin White                |                               |                               | Kevin Rittger             | David Nevins                 |
|                            |                               |                               | Cheryl Smith              | Frank Pratt                  |

## **I      Introductions**

Nancy Steiner announced that Daryl Cleveland is replacing Bill Cody as the primary member from the California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) and Dr. Jim Pointer is replacing Dr. Sam Stratton as the primary member from the Emergency Medical Directors' Association of California (EMDAC).

## **II      Setting of the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

## **III      Review and Discuss Proposed Changes to Article 3 of the Paramedic Regulations**

Nancy distributed proposed changes to Article 3 of the paramedic regulations that were based on discussion at prior meetings regarding field internship issues for the PTF members to review.

Discussion began with a brief explanation of what the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) (formerly Joint Review Committee [JRC]), Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) does. Nancy explained that CoAEMSP is a national accrediting body that accredits paramedic training programs and eventually will also accredit EMT training programs. She also explained that they are under the umbrella organization of the CAAHEP, which is the accrediting body for many allied health training programs. This Commission is similar to the Joint Commission for hospitals. CoAEMSP evaluates the educational quality of training programs when they accredit a program. Jim Holbrook explained that the evaluations by CoAEMSP will look at evidence based materials that will prove the quality of the program such as: are policies and procedures specific; how are they measurable; how do you know that you are getting a good candidate for the program; what are the attrition rates; does the college actually have an appropriate library and support services; policies and procedures for codes of conduct, etc. Then they will look at the three components of paramedic training; didactic, clinical and field

internship, and have very specific requirements that a training program has to achieve, which is called a “Standard”. There are also “Essentials” which identify how to achieve that “Standard”. They will also look at what the requirements of a medical director, program director, and other staffing are. They will look at such things as; how the medical director makes a decision that the test material is valid, that the students are actually tested in competencies, etc. as well. There is also an evaluation component required that looks at an analysis of meeting the “Standard” and an action plan based on that analysis that is submitted annually.

Concern was expressed that some training programs that have not begun the accreditation process will not be accredited by the 2004 deadline in the paramedic regulations and what will happen to the students enrolled in these programs. It was suggested that the EMS Authority’s website include whether or not a school is accredited and what the consequences will be if a student enrolls in a training program that is not yet accredited. There was also a suggestion that the EMS Authority website include a comparison of training programs where potential paramedic students can see a comparison of the different training programs test results, costs, etc.

It was also discussed that currently some training programs are not producing competent paramedics and there is considerable expense to departments in training paramedics once they are hired. There was also a suggestion that the EMS Authority identify which training programs that paramedics attended that have had disciplinary action taken against them for skills issues.

There was some discussion on whether the regulations should list out the course content of the US DOT paramedic curriculum or just refer to the DOT curriculum as the standard for training. It was cautioned that the DOT curriculum does not specify hours required for each section of paramedic training, but rather gives a range of hours.

There was also some discussion of moving the authority for approving paramedic training programs from the local EMS agencies to the EMS Authority, but it was noted that at this time the Authority does not have sufficient staffing or resources to do this and a funding source and legislation would be required before this would be possible. Concern was also expressed that paramedic training courses, in locations other than the county the training program is headquartered in, should have more authority over any satellite programs in their area. It was suggested that the EMS Authority should at least approve paramedic training programs that are operated by the local EMS Agency.

#### Issues for Discussion:

1. Should possession of a current CPR card be a prerequisite to entrance into a paramedic training program?

After some discussion it was decided to add possession of a current CPR card as a prerequisite to entering a paramedic training program.

The PTF members began reviewing the draft of the proposed changes to the paramedic regulations. Some of the changes discussed were as follows:

*Section 100148 Approved Training Programs (d)* – It was recommended that the wording be changed to “Paramedic training programs shall submit...for CoAEMSP accreditation ~~status~~ and ongoing evaluation documents”.

*Section 100149 Teaching Staff (e)(1)* - It was recommended that physician, registered nurse, and physician assistant be deleted from the list of those that may be field preceptors.

It was also recommended that the requirement for having “2 years of experience in...within the last 5 years” for the principle instructor, field preceptor and clinical preceptor be changed to have 2 years of current experience in....

The PTF began reviewing the new language to the paramedic regulations of the outline for the preceptor training program that was created by the California Paramedic Program Directors (CPPD) and some changes were recommended that will be outlined in the next revision.

#### **IV Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held May 3, 2002 in Sacramento.

#### **V Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.